

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) Arcing contact element (10,18) for electrical switching off equipment for medium and high tension, particularly for circuit breakers, this element being intended to be added to a fixed (8) or mobile (16) support belonging to a contact assembly of this switching off equipment, the said element (10, 18) being capable of occupying during operation an initial position in which it is in contact with another contact element (18,10) as well as a second position in which it is separated from this other contact element so as to allow interruption of the current in the equipment, the said contact element (10,18) including carbon fibres (26) embedded in a matrix (30,34) which includes at least one electrically conducting material which has a resistance lower than  $200\ \mu\Omega.cm$  characterised by the fact that the said matrix including at least one conducting material also includes carbon in the form of graphite in a primary matrix of the matrix which is present around the carbon fibres, being present in inset spaces defined in said primary matrix.

2. (Original) Element according to claim 1 characterised by the fact that the carbon fibres (26) include long fibres arranged according to three-dimensional braiding (28).

3. (Currently Amended) Element according to claim 1, characterised by the fact that the conducting material which has a resistance lower than  $200\ \mu\Omega.cm$  represents a weight of between 10 and 50% of this contact element.

4. (Currently Amended) Element according to claim 3, characterised by the fact that the conducting material which has a resistance lower than  $200\ \mu\Omega.cm$  represents a weight of between 20 and 40% of this contact element.

5. (Original) Element according to claim 1, characterised by the fact that said at least one electrically conducting material which has a resistance lower than  $200\ \mu\Omega.cm$  is in particulate

form and the size of the particles of ~~the~~ said conducting material is between 0.1 and 200 micrometers.

6. (Original) Element according to claim 5, characterised by the fact that the size of the particles of the conducting material which has a resistance lower than 200  $\mu\Omega$ .cm is between 1 and 50 micrometers.

7. (Original) Element according to claim 1, characterised by the fact that the electrically conducting material is copper.

8. (Original) Element according to claim 1, characterised by the fact that the diameter of the carbon fibres (26) is between 0.1 and 50 micrometers.

9. (Original) Element according to claim 8, characterised by the fact that the diameter of the carbon fibres (26) is between 2 and 15 micrometers.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Amended) Contact unit for electrical switching off equipment for medium and high tension, particularly for circuit breakers, including a fixed (6) and mobile (14) contact device, each device (6, 14) being equipped with an arcing contact element (10, 18), these two contact elements (10, 18) being capable of presenting a first mutual contact position and a second mutual switching off position in which they are separated from each other, characterised by at least one arcing contact element (10, 18) being capable of occupying during operation an initial position in which it is in contact with another contact element (18,10) as well as a second position in which it is separated from this other contact element so as to allow interruption of the current in the equipment, the said contact element (10,18) including carbon fibres (26) embedded in a matrix (30,34) which includes at least one electrically conducting material characterised by

the fact that the said matrix including at least one conducting material also includes carbon in the form of graphite.

14. (Previously Amended) Electric switching off equipment for medium or high tension, in particular circuit breakers, including a switching off chamber (2) equipped with a contact assembly(10, 18, 22), characterised by this contact assembly being capable of occupying during operation an initial position in which it is in contact with another contact element (18,10) as well as a second position in which it is separated from this other contact element so as to allow interruption of the current in the equipment, the said contact element (10,18) including carbon fibres (26) embedded in a matrix (30,34) which includes at least one electrically conducting material characterised by the fact that the said matrix including at least one conducting material also includes carbon in the form of graphite.